



Perry-Harris-Madison School Corp

II. Project Abstract

Briefly (500 words maximum) describe the proposed project clearly and concisely using the space provided.

NEEDS

Technology to support instruction continues to change the learning and teaching environment. A district goal at P-H-M is to have all students reading at grade level by the end of third grade. All elementary PL221 School Improvement Plans address this goal. Progress is measured with multiple instruments on a frequent basis. The district has used many different interventions to assist underachieving primary students. Many teachers have had in-depth training in Wilson multi-sensory reading strategies, Orton-Gillingham methodologies, and other best practices in reading. In the fall (2008) 18.7% of third graders did not pass ISTEP English/LA testing. Recent ISTEP scores indicate that approximately 20% of the student population is at risk of not making the district goal. This grant will focus on that student group. There are 11 P-H-M elementary schools, six of them are Title I schools. The Title I schools have various degrees of poverty as evidenced by free and reduced lunch statistics. The Title I schools run from 20% to 65% free and reduced participation. This demographic is the fastest growing demographic in the Corporation; growing at 1 to 2 percent per year.

The P-H-M district will use the grant funds to fund three different initiatives to reach the goal of all students reading on grade level by the end of third grade. Third grade ISTEP scores in English and Language Arts will measure the success of this project.

SOLUTION I

Grant funds will be used to install sound amplification systems in all kindergarten and first grade classrooms. The research is clear that phonemic awareness depends upon hearing the distinctive sounds of the language. Medical research tells us that hearing loss due to frequent ear infections in this age group have a profound influence on student learning. Some studies say that about 70% of a typical class can actually hear the teacher during whole group instruction. It is estimated that on any given day 43% of elementary level children fail a hearing test due to undetected health issues. (MARRS Report 2008)

SOLUTION II

Using data to drive instruction is regarded as one of the best practices to promote student achievement. P-H-M has used the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) tests for a number of years and found it to be a good measure of student performance. This grant will fund handheld palm devices that will allow teachers to record student results in real time. The software on the device has the capacity to connect to our current reading texts and prescribe specific lessons to meet individual students needs. Additionally the software will also draw from lesson banks to develop prescriptive instructional units for individual students. The mClass Palm gives the teacher easy access to progress monitoring and reporting.

SOLUTION III

The district will purchase software licenses for each elementary called earobics. It is a proven research based intervention solution that directly impacts reading achievement in pre-K through third grade.

The four private schools served by this grant will use their funds to increase computing capacity in classrooms and computer labs. The focus of use will be on word processing to support writing instruction. Progress will be measured by analyzing writing achievement.